

Region 6 Superfund Issues for the Texas Environmental Superconference (Ron's Travel to Austin the week of August 1, 2016).

San Jacinto Waste Pits

The EPA continues to work closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as we complete the Remedial Investigation for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. The two agencies have had regular, frequent discussions to plan, implement, and measure outcomes of the investigations.

- TCEQ has provided review and comment on draft submittals from the Potentially Responsible Parties to ensure that the work accomplishes its goals.
- EPA is being assisted by TCEQ in providing field oversight of investigation work being conducted by the PRPs.
- This partnership will greatly facilitate the achievement of a successful remedial action for the Site.

USOR Remedial Investigation Coordination

- EPA was successful in negotiating a Scope of Work for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study with the Potentially Responsible Party Group with continuous discussion and input from the TCEQ. This coordination with TCEQ resulted in EPA and the PRPs signing the Administrative Order on Consent on May 14, 2015.
- EPA continues to coordinate with the Project Manager in the oversight of the Remedial Investigation conducted by the PRPs at the US Oil Recovery Site (400 N. Richey Property)
- TCEQ is assisting in remedial investigation field oversight activities.
- EPA continues to coordinate with the Lead Administrative Trustee (TCEQ) regarding natural trustee issues

Remedy Optimization in Region 6

- Since 2013, Region 6 and TCEQ has worked with our National Superfund optimization team to review and improve the remedy performance and design at 8 sites in Texas.
- Optimization recommendations have provided a path forward for targeted remedial action projects and for reduced project costs at operating treatment systems.
- Region 6 is working with TCEQ to target the next round of optimization studies at Superfund sites in Texas.

East 67th Street Ground Water Plume Site

- Region 6 and TCEQ have worked together to complete two cleanup projects in 2015 that focused on preventing exposure to contaminated ground water through private water supply wells, and preventing further spread of the ground water contamination.
- Further reduction of the ground water contamination and the source area will be performed through a third cleanup project beginning in 2016 and a fourth project planned to start in 2017.

Sandy Beach Ground Water Plume Site

- Region 6 and TCEQ have worked together to complete two cleanup projects in 2015 and one project in 2016 that focused on preventing exposure to contaminated ground water through private water supply wells, and treating the high concentration source area.

Further reduction of the ground water contamination will be performed through a fourth cleanup project planned to start in 2017.

Donna Reservoir f/k/a Donna Reservoir and Canal Superfund Site

Donna, Hidalgo County, Texas

Donna Reservoir is located in South Texas near the United States border with Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico, south of the City of Donna. The Donna Irrigation District #1 has been identified as a PRP as the current owner of the Site. A General Notice Letter and 104(e) Request for Information will be sent to the Donna Irrigation District. The Irrigation District may be a state entity which will trigger an increase in the State's matching obligation.

Chemical Recycling Inc, Wylie, Texas

EPA worked with TCEQ and the City of Wylie for the past year to promote and facilitate a beneficial and appropriate site reuse for the Chemical Recycling, Inc., site (CRI). Near the conclusion of the cleanup, the City of Wylie requested that EPA develop a Superfund Ready for Reuse Determination (RfR) for the site which states that the site is ready for industrial or commercial reuse.

- A site reuse event was held June 2nd and the signatories were Ron Curry and the Mayor of Wylie. Congressman Sessions expressed his appreciation for the Agency's involved in the cleanup
- The Chemical Recycling, Inc., site (CRI) includes a former reclamation facility of approximately five (5) acres that received spent halogenated and non-halogenated solvents for recycling.
- The site generated still bottoms as a byproduct of its reclamation process and used the still bottoms to construct experimental roads on site.

Hurricane Planning and Coordination

Region 6 met with TCEQ, Texas General Land Office, Texas Railroad Commission, and the US Coast Guard in May 2016 to coordinate hurricane response plans and develop a common operating picture for a disaster response. These meetings are extremely beneficial because they not only ensure we have similar processes in place, but more importantly, it strengthens relations between the agencies and responders before we are in the heat of a response.

Building TCEQ Regional Relations

The Region 6 response program met with all of the TCEQ Regional Directors in Austin, TX, in June 2016, to discuss the different agencies authorities and responsibilities, outline EPA's response criteria, emphasize the unified approach to responding and the put faces to names. Both agencies believed this meeting was beneficial and worthwhile. **WHY?**

CES Environmental Services, Houston

CES Environmental Services, Inc. Site (Site) is an abandoned former chemical recycling/waste management facility located approximately seven miles from downtown Houston, Harris

County, Texas. The site is located in an environmental justice area consisting primarily of residential, educational and commercial establishments.

- Close coordination with TCEQ resulted in EPA removing waste from 11 vacuum boxes, 1 roll-off box, 43 ASTs, 167 drums, totes, and miscellaneous containers, 9 frac tanks, 1 subsurface oil/water separator, 19 sumps, 2 trench drain areas, contaminated soils, spill areas, and contaminated pooled water areas. The volume of these combined wastes disposed of by EPA was approximately: 541,719 gallons, 206,705 pounds, and 400 cubic yards.
- The TCEQ requested EPA assistance to address the chemical facility as the Bankruptcy Trustee did not have sufficient resources to properly secure, clean up, and dispose of the leaking and deteriorating chemical containers.
- During the course of the response, the EPA coordinated with residents by public meetings, fact sheets, site updates, media interviews, and personal interactions with the local community, local colleges, local and federal politicians, non-governmental organizations including the Texas Organizing Project, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, and Air Alliance Houston.
- The PRPs have formed the CES Griggs Road PRP Group and is currently investigating and will be addressing the remaining environmental issues related to the site through the TCEQ Voluntary Cleanup Program.

A-1 Custom Packaging Fire and Spill Response

Houston, Texas

On May 5th, 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the City of Houston, and Harris County officials established a Unified Command to conduct emergency response activities resulting from a warehouse fire and spill that occurred at the in A-1 Custom Packaging facility located in northwest in Houston, Texas.

- The warehouse facility is located in a mostly residential area.
- The cleanup of Spring Branch Creek and off-site disposal activities were closely coordinated by both TCEQ and EPA and were completed the week of June 6th.
- The cleanup response activities of the facility and adjacent residential properties has continued and are nearly complete at this time.

Region 6 Texas' Brownfields Success

- The TCEQ has established a State Response Program using 128a funding granted by EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization.
- Signing their Memorandum of Agreement with EPA on May 1, 1996, TCEQ was one of the first state partners of the national Brownfields effort.
- The TCEQ Brownfields Program incorporates facets of other TCEQ programs (the Brownfields Site Assessment and Voluntary Cleanup Program) to address underutilized and potentially contaminated sites within the State.
- The TCEQ partners with the Railroad Commission of Texas to provide technical assistance to all types of brownfields, including those on oil and gas production sites. This partnership is one of the only of its kind nationwide.

- The TCEQ Brownfields Program seeks to benefit communities throughout Texas by facilitating the cleanup and reuse of abandoned or underutilized properties in order to encourage sound land use and management, and to return these properties to beneficial, tax-producing usage, protect existing jobs, and create new job opportunities.
- The TCEQ Brownfields Program routinely focuses on outreach to distressed, rural, and environmental justice communities to increase awareness about the Brownfields Program, technical assistance opportunities, and federal Brownfield grant funding.
- To date, TCEQ has utilized its 128a assessment funding to conduct over 70 Environmental Site Assessments on properties throughout the state. These efforts have leveraged over \$10M in cleanup and redevelopment funding and created numerous jobs for Texans. Over 700 properties entered the TCEQ Brownfields Response Program in FY15 alone.
- Through November 2015, the Voluntary Cleanup Program has received over 2,600 applications representing dry cleaners, manufacturing facilities, shopping centers, warehouses, auto-related businesses and other commercial and industrial enterprises. The VCP has issued over 2,000 certificates of completion, created thousands of jobs and jump-started local economies throughout the state. Recent successes include:
 - Our Community Pantry – TCEQ and EPA provided Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments to the City of Dallas to enable transfer of property to a non-profit group for redevelopment into a community food pantry. The North Texas Food Bank opened Our Community Pantry in 2014 with the hopes that the surrounding community would not only have the benefit of much-needed food resources, but also benefit from the eventual revitalization of the surrounding area.
 - Plaza Saltillo – The Plaza Saltillo Transit-Oriented Development project is a Partnership for Sustainable Communities – Region 6 project. The Federal Transit Authority is lead-Federal Agency for this project. The Saltillo District Master Plan includes: 1) creation of up to 675 housing units, of which at least 25% will be affordable; 2) creation of over 20,000 square feet of community-oriented commercial space, serving neighborhood businesses, artisans, restaurants and services, public spaces and amenities, a community garden and community center that can house educational, training and recreational uses; and 3) improved connectivity through repurposing existing commercial railroad tracks from Plaza Saltillo CapMetro stop located in east Austin to allow public transit access to downtown Austin. TCEQ issued a comfort letter dated June 5, 2013, to the CapMetro for the closed Saltillo Rail Yards. Construction was completed in 2016.